

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7192

BILL NUMBER: HB 1748

DATE PREPARED: Jan 8, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Review of Teacher Licensing Exams.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chuck Mayfield

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that the Professional Standards Board may, upon request, review the written examination of an individual who does not achieve a passing score on the written examination for an initial standard teaching license to determine whether the individual's score accurately reflects the individual's performance on the examination. It requires the Board to grant an initial standard teaching license to an individual if the Board determines the individual achieved a passing score and the individual meets the other requirements for the license.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Currently, about 6,000 candidates take a minimum of four different tests for teacher certification. Often a college may require the passage of the tests to be admitted to the college's education program. Candidates take at least four tests: reading, writing, mathematics, and the teaching specialty. An estimated 24,000 tests are given each year. These tests are administered six times a year. Approximately 2,000 tests, or 9%, are failed each year.

The Professional Standards Board currently allows appeals only if the accommodations for a disability were not adequate. The Professional Standards Board (PSB) estimates the cost of the appeals to be about \$200 per appeal for staff time, material preparation, and committee travel expenses. Assuming a similar cost for this appeal and that the 2,000 failed tests would appeal, the estimated costs would be about \$400,000 per year.

The bill also requires the testing company to release the person's graded examination and the scoring rubric for grading the examination to PSB and the individual. The tests are currently offered by Educational Testing Services (ETS) and given in several states. The testing company is concerned about the test integrity and security. Test questions are used for several years before they are retired. The distribution of the tests and rubrics would require a new test to be developed each time it is given. The cost of developing a new test is estimated by ETS to be about \$580,000 per test. About half of the tests are written examinations so the

development costs would depend on the number of times the test would be given each year. The development cost per examination would be at least \$1.16 M. If the current schedule of giving the test six times per year continues, then 12 tests, at least, would be needed. The teaching specialty test would be different depending on the subject the person would teach, so more than four tests must be developed. The cost of the four tests is currently paid by the student and costs about \$175. If the state did not pay some portion of the cost of the new tests, then the student costs would significantly increase.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Professional Standards Board.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Tom Hansen, Professional Standards Board, 232-9010.